FULL-TIME INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH COURSE

INTRODUCTION

This is a General English course for European and International learners who are working towards an intermediate level of English (CEFR B1). It is full-time (16 hours per week) with an additional two and a half hour Exam Preparation course included for December leavers (18.5 hours).

All students are expected to take the Cambridge ESOL PET examination at the end of their course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students joining this course will have a pre-intermediate level of English and must be 16 years or above.

PLACEMENT TESTING

All students will be given a Cardiff and Vale College International placement test before being accepted onto the course. This test normally involves three elements: a computerised multiple choice test, a written statement and an interview, depending on requirement.

THE COURSE INCLUDES:

- Full-time tuition with experienced and qualified tutors using subject-specific books and authentic materials (paper-based and electronic)
- A course book and use of the college’s Moodle site
- Continuous assessment through progress tests and written assignments
- Regular tutorial time to discuss your progress
- Supported self-study time
- Entry to the Cambridge ESOL Preliminary English Test in English (PET) exam (conditions apply)
- Full use of the college’s academic and social facilities (see Student Handbook for details)

COURSE CONTENT

On this course you will cover all four language skills as well as grammar, vocabulary and cultural aspects of language (see details below). In addition there are the following lessons: Cultural and Topical, Tutorial and Self-Access, Grammar and Lexis, and in the summer term there is also Exam Practice for your PET exam.

Speaking

You will take part in interactive communication tasks such as role-plays, discussions and interviews. At PET level you will be expected to be able to ask and understand questions and make appropriate responses, as well as being able to talk freely in order to express emotions, reactions etc. In addition, you will also focus on managing conversations and improving your pronunciation.
Listening

You will have the opportunity to practice listening for general understanding and for detail from a variety of sources on a range of topics. Tasks will include note-taking, blank gap filling, sentence completion and matching multiple-choice. You will use online software as well as practising in class.

Reading

You will be encouraged to read widely whilst studying here, both in class and at home. In class, you will be given a range of texts to read with accompanying tasks. These texts may come from newspapers, magazine articles, public notices, fiction, brochures etc. You will be required to complete related tasks such as multiple-matching, working out meaning, text cohesion awareness, and comprehension.

Writing

You will be given the opportunity to develop your written accuracy, focusing on spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and text coherence. At PET level, you will be expected to rephrase information as well as communicate effectively in a variety of written styles, such as email or letter writing and short stories.

Grammar

You will study and review the important structures such as tenses, word order, and question formation. You will be given the opportunity to practise the new structures actively in both writing and speaking, through controlled practice and freer communicative activities and homework exercises.

Vocabulary

You will study areas of vocabulary such as parts of speech, simple collocation as well as learning topic-related vocabulary. You will be given the opportunity to try out your new words and phrases actively in both writing and speaking, through controlled practice and freer communication activities in class, and for homework exercises.

Pronunciation

You will study the key areas of pronunciation including individual English sounds, syllable stress, connected speech, intonation, rhythm and word stress. You will be taught the phonemic symbols of English sound as well in order to help you understand how to say ‘new’ vocabulary correctly.

PROGRESSION AFTER THIS COURSE

Students who successfully complete this course have several possible progression routes:

- Move on to the First Certificate of General English course in the college
- Move on to the IELTS Preparation course in the college
- Apply for a job (showing English language level through the PET qualification)

For further information about the Preliminary Test in English qualification go to this website:

http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/general-english/pet.html